

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated February 14, 2006, in which claims 21, 24-25 were allowed, claims 1, 3-5, 8 and 13-16 were rejected, and claims 9-12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims in view of the above-amendments and the following remarks.

I. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

With this Amendment:

- A. Amended claim 1 is a combination of pending claim 1, part of pending claim 4, pending claim 8 and pending claim 9;
- B. Claims 4, 10 and 12 are amended consequently;
- C. Claims 8 and 9 are cancelled;
- D. Amended claim 16 is a combination of pending claim 16, part of pending claim 4, pending claim 8 and pending claim 9;
- E. The remaining pending claims are maintained.

II. CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 3 and 16 were rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by Nagata, U.S. Patent No. 5,990,671. Claims 4, 5, 8 and 13-15 were rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagata. Claims 9-12 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Since amended claims 1 and 16 now include the subject matter of claim 9, claims 1 and 16 should be in condition for allowance, together with there respective dependent claims.

III. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

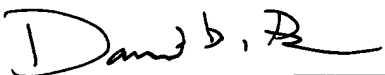
Claim 1 was objected to for a minor informality concerning the numbering of the first, second and third transistors. This numbering has been clarified with the amendments made to independent claims 1 (and similarly claim 16).

Accordingly, all pending claims are believe to be in condition for allowance.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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